Advocacy Day

May 10, 2018

Welcome to Advocacy Day

- Opportunity to meet with federal legislative offices and raise issues affecting the community
- Hands-on training on how to engage in federal level advocacy
- Network with community members and advocates

Why YOU Should Participate in Advocacy Day

- Inform Congress of the impact of immigration, hate violence, and racial profiling policies on South Asian Americans
- Influence the dialogue on these important issues
- Learn about the policy priorities of a particular member of Congress

New to Advocacy Day? Don't Worry!

- Learn about issues today
- Advocacy training with tips
- Remember to focus on the impact of the issues for South Asians
- You know your community and experiences
- Your legislators are accountable to YOU

What We Will Discuss Today

- Logistical information
- Agenda for Advocacy Day
- Script for a legislative meeting

Schedule for Advocacy Day

- **Morning Session** *(Dirksen Senate Office Building SD-562)*
  - *7:30am – Buses depart Georgetown University for Capitol Hill*
  - *8:15 am – Buses unload in front of Dirksen Senate Office Building and group poses for picture outside before going through security*
  - *8:45 am – Check-in, drop off luggage and breakfast inside Dirksen 562*
  - 9:30am – 10:30 am: Congressional Briefing on Immigration, Racial Profiling, and Hate Violence with Senior Staff from Member offices
  - 10:30am – 11:30am: Grab to go lunch and Delegation organizing
- **Afternoon Session** *(Capitol Hill)*
  - 12:00pm – 2:00pm: Individual Visits with Congressional Offices
  - 2:00pm – 3:00pm: Return to Dirksen 562 to pick up luggage and depart

Roles During The Meeting

- Each meeting will have a team leader, designated speakers, & a note taker
- Team Leader: Thanks the staffer, starts off discussion & leads the meeting, & closes the meeting & provides materials to the staffer
- Designated Speakers: Outline issues assigned to them in the talking points
- Note taker: Takes notes during the meeting & provides these notes to SAALT staff.

Focus 1: Immigration

- Against this administration's enforcement agenda
- Congress failed to deliver DREAM Act
- DACA + TPS recipients and applicants must be protected
- Support American Promise Act + Reuniting Families Act
- Against this administration's intent to rescind H-4 visa work authorization
- Protect H-4 visa work authorization and sign bi-partisan Dear Colleague letter

Focus 2: Hate Violence

- Our communities are experiencing levels of hate violence that we have not seen since the year after 9/11
- We have seen a 45% increase in hate violence and xenophobic political rhetoric aimed at our communities since the presidential election
- SAALT's recent report found that 1 in 5 perpetrators of hate violence actually referenced President Trump, a Trump administration policy, or a Trump campaign slogan when committing the attack
- We ask our allies in Congress to ensure their colleagues stand up against xenophobic political rhetoric – which leads to discriminatory policies like the Muslim Ban and engenders violence
- Support the NO HATE Act

Focus 3: Racial and Religious Profiling

- Racial and religious profiling by law enforcement has proven time and again to be ineffective.
- Lack of trust with law enforcement makes all of our communities and society less safe.
- Government policies of racial and religious profiling like the Muslim Ban make our communities more vulnerable to hate violence
- Support legislation to block implementation of the Muslim Ban so we do not have to rely on the courts
- Support End Racial and Religious Profiling Act
- Support legislation for a fair and accurate Census that does not include a citizenship question

Blueprint for the Meeting

Step 1: Introduce yourselves

Step 2: Introduce South Asian community + demographic information

Step 3: Raise issues of concern

Step 4: Ask what legislation the office is leading or co-sponsoring and other efforts they are taking to address the issues of concern

Step 5: Leave the folder with information about the South Asian American community and YOUR orgs!

Step 6: Ask them who to follow up with in their in-District office and get their contact info.

Blueprint for the Meeting Cont'd

Focus for Immigration:

- Enforcement
- DACA + TPS
- Family Reunification
- H-4 work authorization

Focus for Racial and Religious Profiling:

- Impact of racial and religious profiling
- Muslim Ban
- ERRPA
- Census 2020

Focus on Hate Violence:

- Spike in hate violence against our Communities
- NO HATE Act

Engage in a Dialogue

- Ask them what their immigration, hate violence, and racial profiling priorities are
- Ask them what their positions are on immigration enforcement, DACA, TPS, Family Reunification, H-4, Muslim Ban, ERRPA, Census, NO HATE Act
- Ask them what they have done to address these issues so far and what they plan to do
- If they can't give you a response, ask them when they will know and if you or SAALT can follow-up to find out

Return to your Overarching Messages

- Immigration enforcement against our communities is growing and must be stopped – we are experiencing a crackdown on both undocumented + documented immigrants
- Hate violence against our communities is spiking and must be addressed by our government and law enforcement
- Racial and religious profiling makes our communities less safe and diminishes trust with law enforcement. Government policies like the Muslim Ban or asking about citizenship status on the Census makes our communities targets for violence and deportation

Offer Resources

- **Team Leader gives folder to staffer with:**
  - About SAALT
  - Demographic information on South Asian community
  - Copy of “Power, Pain, Potential”
- **Offer to provide additional follow-up materials that staffer might request such as**
  - Organizational materials for additional background

Point of Contact

- Ask them if their district office staff works closely with the local South Asian community

- Ask them whom you can be in touch with in their district office if you have further questions or issues to raise

Materials and Resources for You

You will be provided with:

- Advocacy Day Schedule
- Delegation assignments
- Delegation visit script
- Backgrounder on Members of Congress
- Capitol Hill map

Mock Meeting Exercise

- Step 1: Divided into small groups
  - One person will play the role of the legislator
  - Others will play the roles of constituents
- Step 2: Review your talking points and recommendations; determine who will cover which issues and include any pertinent community stories (5 minutes)
- Step 3: Practice introducing yourself and raising the issues (15 minutes)
- Step 4: Feedback (5 minutes)

Just Remember!

- Share your personal stories, experiences, and concerns
- Ask questions of your legislator
- Complete the report-back form
- Have fun!